UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/46/PV.67
23 December 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 67th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 9 December 1991, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. SHIHABI	(Saudi Arabia)
later:	Mr. LEGWAILA (Vice-President)	(Botswana)

- Current financial crisis of the United Nations; financial emergency of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General [109 and 110]

- United Nations programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law: report of the Sixth Committee [124]

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- Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangers or takes innocent human lives or jeopardizes fundamental freedoms and study of the underlying causes of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and which cause some people to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes: report of the Sixth Committee [125]

- Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order: report of the Sixth Committee [126]

- United Nations Decade of International Law: report of the Sixth Committee [127]

- Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session: report of the Sixth Committee [128]

- Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fourth session: report of the Sixth Committee [129]

- Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto: report of the Sixth Committee [130]

- Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the strengthening of the role of the Organization [131]

  (a) Report of the Sixth Committee

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  (a) Report of the Sixth Committee

  (b) Amendment

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 109 AND 110 (continued)

CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS; FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/600 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In connection with the first item on our agenda for this afternoon, members will recall that, at its sixty-second plenary meeting, the General Assembly heard a statement by the Secretary-General introducing his report on the financial situation of the United Nations.

The Assembly decided at that meeting, at the request of several members, to hear statements under agenda item 109, "Current financial crisis of the United Nations", and agenda item 110, "Financial emergency of the United Nations", without prejudice to their consideration by the Fifth Committee.

This afternoon we shall continue to hear statements by speakers on those two items. As announced this morning, the list of speakers in the debate will be closed this afternoon at 3.30 p.m. I therefore request those representatives wishing to participate in the debate to inscribe their names as soon as possible.

Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to begin my statement by expressing our gratitude to the Secretary-General for introducing his report on the financial emergency of the Organization (A/46/600 and Add.1). The report highlights the unprecedented gravity of the financial crisis besetting the Organization.

For that reason, my delegation believes that the analysis of the problem should be given the highest degree of political attention, since the seriousness of the matter may have grave consequences for the proper functioning of the United Nations at one of the most critical moments in its

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

history, just when special prospects for strengthening multilateral action to solve international problems are opening.

The characteristics of the financial crisis now confronting us make it manifestly necessary to take immediate and decisive steps. However, our consideration of measures to solve the situation of insolvency should go hand in hand with a clear-cut identification of the causes of the situation.

In the view of my delegation, there are three specific reasons of different kinds that have caused the financial crisis now confronting us. Accordingly, the solution of this delicate matter must be approached on three different levels.

One of the main causes of the desperate financial situation outlined by the Secretary-General is, without doubt, the unilateral decision on the part of some Member States to withhold their payments in order to compel the Organization to conduct itself in accordance with special interests. To overlook that fact would be to ignore the fundamental reasons for the existing crisis and would lead us to confusion in the measures we take to correct it. This is a historical tendency.

Any administrative measure that may be advocated would have little chance of success in the absence of a genuine political resolve on the part of all Member States to shoulder their financial obligations unconditionally, with full respect for the democratic spirit in which this Organization was created.

A second element that underlies the existing crisis is the inability of many developing countries to meet their financial responsibilities to the Organization adequately. The steady worsening of economic conditions in a large number of Member States has adversely affected their capacity to pay their contributions to the United Nations on time and in full.

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

Although domestic economic difficulties do not exempt a State Member of this Organization from its international commitments, nevertheless, if we are to propose realistic solutions, we must bear in mind the reasons that force various countries, against their will, to fail to comply with their obligations to the Organization.

To a large extent, many Member States' inability to pay is merely one more symptom of the profound inequities found in the international economic system. Accordingly, the solution to the problem cannot be based solely on additional efforts to be made by the developing countries. Instead, it must include a revision of the methods used to assess contributions, so as to reflect faithfully the evolution of the economic circumstances of the international community.

In addition to the crisis that exists as a result of the unwillingness of some Member States and the inability of others to meet their financial obligations, an imbalance between the availability of resources and the expenditure requirements of the United Nations has emerged as a result of the new dynamics of the Organization's operation.

The transformation of international relations and the disappearance of long-standing antagonisms has made it possible to step up multilateral action in the search for solutions to problems faced by the international community.

However, the existing administrative and financial institutional machinery is not always adequate for effectively meeting the growing demands placed upon the Organization. The time has come to conduct a review of existing procedures in order to adapt them to current needs.

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

The report presented by the Secretary-General puts forward innovative and bold financial proposals aimed at coping with the new challenges confronting us, proposals which call for detailed and careful consideration. A specialized analysis of the various options advanced will be carried out in the Fifth Committee, and therefore on this occasion I shall confine myself to stressing three general points.

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

First, it seems to us important that, in considering the various financing mechanisms available to the United Nations, we should keep in mind the need to preserve the absolute autonomy and independence of the Organization. Consideration of alternative sources of revenue - sources distinct from those indicated in Article 17 of the Charter - should be undertaken with extreme caution so that the possible economic and political advantages and disadvantages might be properly weighed.

Secondly, there is a need to ensure that financial mechanisms for the handling of resources relating to the regular budget are kept clearly distinct from mechanisms for the financing of peace-keeping activities. The special nature of peace-keeping operations calls for a scale of assessments distinct from that by which operations under the regular budget are financed, and we believe that any adjustment in the existing financial procedures should safeguard that principle.

Thirdly, it seems to us that, in considering possible suspension of the application of the Organization's financial regulations, we must avoid creating a situation in which those Member States that pay their contributions in full would find themselves in the position of subsidizing those that are in arrears. In this regard the Secretary-General's proposal that interest should be charged on the unpaid balance of contributions in arrears is interesting.

Allow me to reaffirm Mexico's traditional unreserved acceptance of its financial responsibility to the United Nations. I give an assurance that my Government will continue to make the necessary effort to keep up to date with its payments to the Organization.

In conclusion, the delegation of Mexico would like to associate itself with the recent comment of the Secretary-General that it is deplorable that,

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

at a time when greater responsibilities are being assigned to the United Nations, there is an increasing shortage of the resources that are so necessary if the Organization is to be able to carry out its operations. It is paradoxical and incomprehensible that sufficient resources are available for the prosecution of war but that the resources that are needed for the building of peace and the promotion of development are lacking.

Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka): The delegation of Sri Lanka wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his illuminating and comprehensive report on the financial situation of the United Nations and for his introductory statement. In his report the Secretary-General states:

> "the situation has now deteriorated to the point of crisis. At 31 October 1991, unpaid assessed contributions totalled $988.1 million. Member States must take prompt and decisive action to resolve this perennial, indeed, endemic problem. Such action is essential if the United Nations is to fulfil the new and unprecedented responsibilities which the membership has mandated." (A/46/600, Add.1, para. 1)

Two weeks later - on 4 December 1991 - in a statement to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General stressed once again that

> "The financial insolvency of the United Nations has confronted it with a crisis which ... is at once political and budgetary." (A/46/PV.62, p. 6)

Both the nature of the problem and its cause are well known. The plain truth is that Member States have failed to pay in full and on time their assessed contributions, whether for regular-budget activities or for peace-keeping operations. It is this that has kept the United Nations on the brink of insolvency for a number of years.

(Mr. Kalpage, Sri Lanka)

As at 30 September 1991 only 57 States had paid their contributions in full, whereas 102 States had outstanding assessments.

Failure to pay assessed contributions in full and on time is a violation of article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter, which states:

"The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly."

Sri Lanka, for its part, has paid all its dues and has made its payments promptly. We urge all Member States that have not already done so to fulfil their obligations under the Charter. In this connection we should like to support the Secretary-General's proposals - both short-term and long-term - for solution of the present financial crisis. However, none of these suggestions will enable the United Nations to extricate itself from financial insolvency unless all Member States honour their obligation under the Charter to pay up their dues regularly and on time.

Sri Lanka would support any endeavour to induce Member States to pay their dues in full and on time. We would support too any measures intended to broaden the financial base of the United Nations. However, there are certain measures that Sri Lanka would find it difficult to support. My delegation could not support or encourage any proposal that zero-growth criteria, as a principle, be applied to the United Nations budget. Neither would it be possible for us to support any move to eliminate important political, economic and social programmes that have a direct impact - particularly those that have a direct impact on developing countries.

We must continue to promote the role of the United Nations as an effective instrument for realization of the collective will of the international community in keeping with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Kalpage, Sri Lanka)

As the United Nations moves ahead, the challenges and responsibilities facing it are bound to increase. If these challenges and responsibilities are to be met it is essential that the Organization have adequate financial resources. It is for us, the Member States, to honour our obligations under the Charter and to provide the necessary financial resources.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for having entertained the request made by the representative of Mexico on behalf of our regional group that an equal opportunity be provided for our delegations to address the General Assembly in plenary session on items 109 and 110. The situation depicted by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his report (A/46/600/Add.1) and his proposals aimed at redressing the financial problems of the United Nations deserve our best attention.

I concur with my colleagues who spoke following the Secretary-General's presentation that the United Nations cash problems largely derive from the amount of outstanding contributions to the regular budget and to the financing of peace-keeping operations, which by 31 October last added up to $988.1 million.

Despite the fact that our contributions to the budget and to the financing of peace-keeping operations paid by that date had already surpassed $11.7 million, Brazil still accounts for 1.91 per cent of total outstanding contributions. This is an issue of major concern for our Government, as we take pride in being a Member of the United Nations and in having been from its inception one of its most resolute and constant supporters. We also view assessed contributions as obligations to be unconditionally met, in full and on time.

There is, unfortunately, a remarkable gap between wish and accomplishment. On the one hand, in the last eight years Brazil has faced a situation of economic hardship which scarcely finds any parallel in its modern history. The negative balance in its international financial flows amounts to more than 54 per cent of the stock of the Brazilian external debt and nearly one fifth of my country's average gross domestic product for the same period.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

Increasing commercial protectionism, among other distorting factors prevailing in the international market, makes even harder the ongoing process of adjustment of the domestic economy which will bring about a resumption of economic growth and an enlarged participation in the international market. These difficulties notwithstanding, the Government of Brazil will persevere in its efforts to update its payments.

On the other hand, United Nations membership has not yet succeeded in defining criteria for a more equitable apportionment of expenses. From the very beginning the comparative estimate of national income, which was meant to be no more than a prima facie guide to this matter, in fact outweighs by far the comparative estimate of per capita income, which is a clear indicator of the different degrees of social and economic development. My Government believes that this process leads to anomalous results, unfair assessments and additional burdens for those Member States like Brazil which already face serious limitations on their ability to pay. It is our view that steps to correct this situation are urgently required.

As shown in the document to which I referred at the outset, by 31 October 1991 only 15 Member States had complied with the obligation to pay unconditionally, in full and on time. A certain caution is therefore in order.

As one can see, the limits to the ability of Member States to pay promptly may differ. Notwithstanding the fact that they may suffer different constraints - from extremely negative economic performance to time-consuming procedures for the approval and appropriation of contributions - they may find themselves, against their will and despite their efforts, on the very same list of outstanding debtors and in the company of those States which have withheld their payments for other reasons.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

The United Nations financial problems do not derive solely from cash-flow shortages. Changes in the pattern of payment of assessed contributions also indicate changes in the amount, periodicity and nature of United Nations expenses.

The problems also derive from ever-increasing demands upon an Organization which still needs a higher degree of efficiency and effectiveness in its functioning. Of course, it turns out to be easier, here as elsewhere, to seek to compensate for administrative shortcomings with renewed appeals for more resources.

Cost-saving measures, improved coordination and, above all, an unfailing awareness of the universal nature of the United Nations will be essential to redress the situation, and at the same time to ensure the adequacy of the resources required for current and new programmes.

On many occasions the myth of Pandora's box has been referred to in our Organization. The number and magnitude of peace-keeping operations that have been set in motion or are about to be approved bring back that image.

Brazil has participated in a number of peace-keeping operations. We acknowledge and highly commend their instrumental value for the maintenance of international peace and security. We cannot but be seriously concerned, however, by the implications of these operations for the financial situation of the Organization and for the mandatory financial commitments of Member States.

I must say, in this regard, that the sequential launching of peace-keeping operations - the dimensions and timing of which lay beyond our control - has brought some Member States to the brink of their financial capacity to join in this common and commendable cause. The current list of

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

outstanding contributions is indicative of Members' decreasing ability to pay for these operations on time.

We are convinced of the need to review continually the intertwined aspects involved in the process of approval, budgeting, staffing, financing, managing, commanding and accounting for the peace-keeping operations. From this standpoint the two proposals made by the Secretary-General in this regard seem to be insufficient as they are limited to the financial inflow to these operations. Additionally, the prospect of combining governmental and non-governmental, public and private financial support to peace-keeping operations, inevitably calls for thorough reflection, while the cost-benefit ratio of a $1 billion United Nations Peace Endowment Fund raises numerous questions.

I do not intend to comment extensively on the Secretary-General's proposals. They will be examined in depth by the Fifth Committee. In view of their importance and sensitiveness, I hold that they deserve careful consideration and under no circumstances should they be examined hastily. Nevertheless, just to complete signalling our initial reaction to some of them, I wish to point out that my delegation is not in a position to discuss the possibility of establishing a revolving fund for humanitarian assistance - as contained in proposal No. 2 - out of the context in which the issue is currently being debated and until that debate is over.

Mr. GHAREKHAN (India): May I first of all express our appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, for having introduced his report on the financial situation of the United Nations. It is a measure of the seriousness and magnitude of the problem that the Secretary-General himself addressed these issues in plenary session.

(Mr. Gharekhan, India)

Unprecedented new demands have been placed on the Organization in recent months. Legislative mandates, particularly in the field of peace-keeping, have multiplied its activities. And yet the means and financial wherewithal to implement these mandates have regrettably not kept pace. As the Secretary-General has said, the Organization is on the brink of insolvency.

My delegation firmly believes that it is the responsibility of Member States to ensure that they make their assessed contributions to the Organization in full and on time. It is however possible - and indeed this is something we can understand - that some countries, particularly developing countries, for reasons beyond their control, are unable to make their payments promptly and fully. There may also be procedural or legislative obstacles, such as differing financial years, which hamper prompt payment. But within these constraints, obligatory assessments must be settled reasonably promptly.

(Mr. Gharekhan, India)

The Secretary-General has made far-reaching proposals in his report contained in document A/46/600/Add.1. My delegation intends to make detailed comments on the proposals during substantive discussions in the Fifth Committee. Suffice it to say at this stage that we would be willing to look sympathetically at proposals relating to a reserve fund for peace-keeping operations, a revolving fund for humanitarian emergency assistance, and the Working Capital Fund.

It is true that Member States bear the main responsibility for ensuring that the financial situation of our Organization is stable. At the same time, however, we believe that all possibilities for further streamlining the functioning of the Organization and rationalizing its structures should be examined with a view to enhancing both managerial and financial efficiency.

Before concluding, my delegation would like to assure the President of the Assembly that we would be willing to participate in the substantive discussion of these proposals in a constructive and cooperative manner in order to ensure speedy redress of the financial problems confronting the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): As previously announced, substantive consideration of agenda items 109 and 110 will take place in the Fifth Committee at a later date, to be announced in the Journal.

AGENDA ITEMS 124 TO 135 AND 140

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/684)

MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH ENDANGERS OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES OR JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND STUDY OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THOSE FORMS OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY, FRUSTRATION, GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR AND WHICH CAUSE SOME PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN, IN AN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL CHANGES: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/654)

PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATING TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/685)

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/686)

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/687)

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/688)

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ARTICLES ON THE STATUS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COURIER AND THE DIPLOMATIC BAG NOT ACCOMPANIED BY DIPLOMATIC COURIER AND OF THE DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS THERETO: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/689)

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

(a) REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/690)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/756)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/691)

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL ON CONSULAR FUNCTIONS TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/692)

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ARTICLES ON MOST-FAVOURED-NATION CLAUSES: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/655)

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/656)

EXPLOITATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AS A WEAPON IN TIMES OF ARMED CONFLICT AND THE TAKING OF PRACTICAL MEASURES TO PREVENT SUCH EXPLOITATION:

(a) REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/46/693)

(b) AMENDMENT (A/46/L.39)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on Mr. Aliosha Nedelchev, Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, to present that Committee's reports on agenda items 124 to 136 and 140.

Mr. NEDELCHEV (Bulgaria), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee: I have the honour of presenting to the General Assembly the 13 reports of the Sixth Committee on its work on the agenda items allocated to it at this session of the General Assembly. The reports are contained in documents A/46/654 to A/46/656 and A/46/684 to A/46/693.

Before introducing each of these reports in the order in which they appear in the Journal, I should like to make a few general remarks.

The constructive atmosphere that has characterized the deliberations in the Sixth Committee during the last few years prevailed this year as well - indeed it was even more constructive. Thus the Committee succeeded in adopting without a vote a record number of 14 resolutions and decisions out of 15. Participants in the work of the Committee at this session will agree that the Chairman of the Committee contributed greatly to this success.

A major achievement of the Sixth Committee at this session was the adoption of the Declaration on Fact-Finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security, which had been prepared in the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and the adoption of the Handbook on Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States, prepared by the Secretary-General. It is also worth noting that the Committee succeeded in rationalizing its agenda by taking decisions on the items entitled "Consideration of the draft articles on most-favoured-nation clauses" and "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States". These items have therefore been removed from the Committee's agenda.

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I shall now introduce the reports of the Sixth Committee, beginning with document A/46/684, containing the report submitted under agenda item 124, entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law". The draft resolution that the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 8 of the report.

Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, authorize the Secretary-General to to carry out in 1992 and 1993 the activities specified in his report on the item, including the provision of a number of fellowships and scholarships. It would further welcome the joint efforts of the Secretariat and the International Court of Justice to publish in a single volume in all the official languages of the Organization, and within the exisiting overall level of appropriations, the summaries of the Judgements and advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice from 1949 to 1990 as provided by the Court's registry, and to update this publication in subsequent years. It would also request the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance, and would request Member States to make voluntary contributions for various activities of the Programme. The Assembly would, moreover, decide to appoint 25 Member States as members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme for a period of four years, beginning on 1 January 1992, thus increasing the membership of the Advisory Committee from 13 to 25 members.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

I now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee in document A/46/654, submitted under agenda item 125, entitled "Measures to prevent international

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terrorism which endangers or takes innocent human lives or jeopardizes fundamental freedoms and study of the underlying causes of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and which cause some people to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes: (a) Report of the Secretary-General; (b) Convening, under the auspices of the United Nations, of an international conference to define terrorism and to differentiate it from the struggle of peoples for national liberation". The draft resolution that the Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 9 of the report.

Under the terms of the preambular part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would express its conviction that a policy of firmness should be established and effective measures should be taken in accordance with international law in order that all acts, methods and practices of international terrorism might be brought to an end. It would also recognize that the effectiveness of the struggle against terrorism could be enhanced by the establishment of a generally agreed definition of international terrorism.

Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the Assembly would once again unequivocally condemn, as criminal and unjustifiable, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever and by whomever committed, including those that jeopardize the friendly relations among States and their security.

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

Under the draft resolution the Assembly would spell out a number of obligations under international law that States are called upon to fulfil in order to prevent and eliminate international terrorism. It would also express its concern at the growing and dangerous links between terrorist groups and drug traffickers and their paramilitary gangs. The Secretary-General would be requested to continue seeking the views of States on international terrorism in all its aspects and on various ways and means of combating it, including several proposals made in this regard in the Committee.

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

As stated in its penultimate operative paragraph, the draft resolution could not in any way prejudice the right to self-determination, freedom and independence of peoples forcibly deprived of that right, or the right of those peoples to struggle legitimately to achieve that right and to seek and receive support. Finally, it is to be noted that the title of the item to be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session will be substantially simplified, and will read "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

Let me now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/685) submitted under agenda item 126, entitled "Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 9 of the report.

Under the terms of the preambular part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would bear in mind that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, it is called upon to initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification. It would also bear in mind the urgent need to adopt measures to reactivate the process of international economic cooperation and the negotiations undertaken for that purpose, particularly in view of the economic difficulties encountered by the developing countries. Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the Assembly would inter alia consider that the impact on developing countries of the current international economic situation should be examined.

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

In paragraph 3 the Assembly would decide to establish a working group of the Sixth Committee to develop the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order. By a separate recorded vote that paragraph was adopted by 74 to 34, with 2 abstentions.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution as a whole by a recorded vote of 76 to 18, with 18 abstentions.

I turn now to the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/686) submitted under agenda item 127, entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 10 of that report.

The preambular part of the draft resolution recalls the four main purposes of the Decade, namely: the promotion of acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law; the promotion of means and methods of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice; the encouragement of the progressive development of international law and its codification; and the encouragement of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law.

Under the operative part of the draft resolution the General Assembly would express its appreciation to States and international organizations and institutions which have undertaken activities in the implemenation of the programme for the first term of the Decade, including sponsoring conferences on various subjects of international law. It would further invite all States and international organizations and institutions referred to in the programme to provide, update or supplement information on the activities undertaken by

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them in the implementation of the programme, and to submit their views on possible activities for the next term of the Decade. Both information and views would be included in the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. The Secretary-General would be further requested to supplement his report on the activities of the United Nations relevant to the progressive development of international law and its codification with new information on an annual basis. The Assembly would also encourage States to disseminate, as appropriate, information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on this item at the national level, and would make an appeal to States, to international and non-governmental organizations working in this field, and to the private sector to make financial contributions or contributions in kind for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the programme.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

I turn now to agenda item 128, "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session". As always, the consideration of the Commission's report was one of the highlights of the Sixth Committee's proceedings and gave rise to a most interesting debate. I seize this opportunity to address warm congratulations to the newly elected members of the Commission and to wish them a fruitful term of office.

The Sixth Committee, as may be seen from paragraph 9 of its report (A/46/687) on agenda item 128, adopted two draft resolutions under that item. Recognizing the role of the International Law Commission in the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law, draft resolution I expresses appreciation to the Commission for having completed at

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its last session three sets of draft articles, and gives the Commission guidelines for the accomplishment of its task at its next session. It invites the Commission, within the framework of the draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind, to consider further and to analyse the issues concerning the question of international criminal jurisdiction in order to enable the Assembly to provide guidelines on the matter, and it recommends that the Commission should continue its work on the topics in its current programme. Among the other provisions of the draft resolution, I should like to underline those paragraphs which contain recommendations by the Assembly to Member States. Under paragraph 9, the Assembly would inter alia urge Governments to present in writing by 1 January 1993 their comments and observations on the two sets of draft articles provisionally adopted by the Commission at its last session. Under paragraph 10 the Assembly would inter alia appeal to States that can do so to make the voluntary contributions that are urgently needed for the holding of the seminars on international law.

Draft resolution II, adopted under the same item, is an offshoot of the work carried out by the Commission at its last session. At that session the Commission adopted a final set of draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, and decided to recommend that the General Assembly should convene an international conference of plenipotentiaries to examine the draft articles and to conclude a convention on the subject. In the draft resolution now before the Assembly the Sixth Committee recommends to the Assembly that it should decide to establish at its next session an open-ended working group of the Sixth Committee to examine issues of substance arising out of the draft articles as well as the question of the convening of

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

an international conference to be held in 1994 or subsequently to conclude a convention on the matter.

The Sixth Committee adopted both draft resolutions without a vote.

The next report of the Sixth Committee is contained in document A/46/688, submitted under agenda item 129, entitled "Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fourth session". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 9 of the report, to which I should like to draw attention at once in order to suggest a small correction. After the title of the draft resolution, a capital "A" should be inserted.

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

The draft resolution contains two parts. Under the preamble to part A, the General Assembly would reaffirm its conviction that the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law would significantly contribute to universal economic cooperation among all States and to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to the well-being of all peoples. Under the operative part, the General Assembly would, among other things, reaffirm the mandate of the Commission and the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the Commission's work concerned with training and assistance in the field of international trade law. The Assembly would also commend the Commission on its decision to organize, as a first step in the preparation of its programme of activities for the United Nations Decade of International Law, a congress on international trade law during the last week of its next session.

Under the preamble to part B of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would express its concern about the relatively low incidence of expert representation from developing countries at sessions of the Commission and its working groups, due in part to inadequate resources to finance the travel of such experts, as well as its conviction that the fulfilment of the mandate of the Commission requires the active participation of representatives from all regions and the various legal and economic systems. Under the operative part, the General Assembly would take note of the report of the Secretary-General on possible ways of assisting developing countries to attend meetings of the Commission, and would request the Fifth Committee to consider granting travel assistance, within existing resources, to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, as well as, on an exceptional basis, to other developing countries members of the Commission, to participate

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in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups. The Assembly would further recommend that the Commission rationalize the organization of its work and consider, in particular, the holding of consecutive meetings of its working groups.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

I now come to agenda item 130, "Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto". This item is an offshoot of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-first session. At that session the Commission adopted final draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and two related draft optional protocols, and recommended that they should form the basis of a convention on the subject. At its forty-fourth session, in 1989, the General Assembly decided that informal consultations would be held to study the draft articles and the related draft optional protocols, as well as the question of future action thereon. It took a similar decision in 1990, and it is on the basis of that decision that informal consultations were resumed at this session of the Assembly in the framework of the Sixth Committee.

Under the draft resolution on this item, which is to be found in paragraph 8 of the report of the Sixth Committee in document A/46/689, the General Assembly would express its satisfaction at the useful informal consultations held this year under the guidance of one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Sixth Committee, and would decide that these informal consultations would be resumed at the Assembly's forty-seventh session.

The Sixth Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote.

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

I turn now to document A/46/690, containing the report submitted by the Sixth Committee under agenda item 131, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization". The two draft resolutions recommended to the General Assembly for adoption are reproduced in paragraph 13 of the report.

Under the operative part of draft resolution I, the General Assembly would express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the completion of the Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes Between States and request him to publish and widely disseminate the Handbook in all the official languages. The Assembly would further decide that the Special Committee would hold its next session from 3 to 21 February 1992, so as to carry out its mandate - spelled out in operative paragraph 4 - regarding the question of the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the strengthening of the role of the Organization and the enhancement of its effectiveness.

By draft resolution II, the General Assembly would approve the text of the Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security, annexed to that draft resolution and prepared by the Special Committee. The Assembly would urge that all efforts be made to ensure that the Declaration became generally known and fully implemented.

As for the Declaration itself, the preambular part recognizes that the full use and further improvement of the means for fact-finding of the United Nations could contribute to the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as the prevention and removal of

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threats to the peace. Under the operative part of the Declaration, the General Assembly would declare that the competent organs of the United Nations should endeavour to have full knowledge of all relevant facts in performing their functions in relation to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Declaration provides for a wide range of actions that can be taken by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General in that regard, with the cooperation of States.

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote.

I now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee in document A/46/691, submitted under agenda item 132, entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country". The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption the draft resolution reproduced in paragraph 7 of the report. I should like to draw attention to a small correction in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution: "75" should be replaced by "76".

Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, endorse the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and express the hope that the host country would continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of the missions. It would also urge the host country to continue to bear in mind its obligations to facilitate the functioning of the United Nations and the missions accredited to it. The Assembly would request the Committee to continue its work, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote.

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

I shall now turn to document A/46/692, which contains the report of the Sixth Committee submitted under agenda item 133 entitled "Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 7 of the report.

Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to hold informal consultations during its forty-seventh session to examine the proposal on an additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. It would further invite Member States as well as other States parties to the Convention to submit their views on this item to the Secretary-General, who would be requested to prepare a report to the General Assembly.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote.

Let me turn to the report of the Sixth Committee contained in document A/46/655, submitted under agenda item 134 entitled "Consideration of the draft articles on most-favoured-nation clauses". The draft decision which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 7 of the report.

Under the terms of the draft decision, the General Assembly would note with appreciation the valuable work done by the International Law Commission on the most-favoured-nation clauses, and decide to bring the draft articles elaborated by the Commission to the attention of Member States and of interested intergovernmental organizations for their consideration in such cases and to such extent as they deem appropriate.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote.

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

I shall now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee contained in document A/46/656, submitted under agenda item 135 entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 9 of the report.

Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, reaffirm that, by acting as good neighbours, States can help to ensure that the ends for which the United Nations were established are achieved. It would also call upon all States to keep in mind the need to act as good neighbours both in their dealings with other States and when taking decisions that could affect them. The Assembly would further decide that the question of development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States should continue to guide States as a goal to be pursued in their consideration of the issues before the United Nations, and note that it could be considered in the future.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote.

Lastly, I turn to the report of the Sixth Committee contained in document A/46/693, submitted under agenda item 140 entitled "Exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict and the taking of practical measures to prevent such exploitation". The draft decision which the Sixth Committee recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 8 of the report.

Under the terms of the draft decision as adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote, the General Assembly would have to take note that the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict is being addressed at the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

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and decide to request the Secretary-General to report on the results of the above-mentioned Conference to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. However, after its adoption, the convening of this Conference was postponed for an indefinite period. As a result of further intensive consultations, it was felt appropriate for the Assembly to amend this draft decision. It is my understanding that the representative of Mozambique will introduce the amendment to the draft decision in document A/46/L.39.

This concludes my presentation of the reports of the Sixth Committee. I may have unduly taxed the patience of the Assembly, but I hope that delegations will agree that the work and the achievements of the Sixth Committee at this session deserved an item-by-item presentation, no matter how sketchy.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to all those who contributed to the success of the work of the Sixth Committee at its forty-sixth session.

First of all, I wish to congratulate all representatives and colleagues in the Committee who demonstrated their high professional skills and their will to cooperate in reaching mutually satisfactory solutions.

I wish to address a special word of thanks to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Pedro Comissario Afonso, whose diplomatic skills and patience helped the Committee conduct its deliberations efficiently and in a businesslike manner. The Chairman was assisted by two able Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Jose Sandoval and Mr. Richard Tetu, with whom, in my capacity as Rapporteur, I have the honour to serve in the Bureau of the Committee.

(Mr. Nedelchev, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

A special word of thanks goes also to the Legal Counsel, Mr. Carl-August Fleischhauer; to Mr. Vladimir Kotliar, Secretary of the Committee; the two Deputy Secretaries, Ms. Jacqueline Dauchy and Mr. Andronico Adede; and all the staff of the Codification Division who provided such dedicated service to the Committee. My thanks go also to all interpreters, translators, conference officers and document officers who contributed to the work of the Committee and to its successful conclusion.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Sixth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Sixth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of its decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee" (decision 34/401, para. E 6).

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

(The President)

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Sixth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that, unless delegations have already notified the Secretariat otherwise, we are going to proceed with the voting in the same manner as was done in the Sixth Committee. This means that, where a separate vote and recorded votes were taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Sixth Committee.

(The President)

The Assembly will first consider the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/684) on agenda item 124, entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law".

The draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/50).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 124.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/654) on agenda item 125, entitled "Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangers or takes innocent human lives or jeopardizes fundamental freedoms and study of the underlying causes of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and which cause some people to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report. The draft resolution is entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

The Sixth Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/51).*

The PRESIDENT: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 125.

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* Mr. Legwaila, Botswana, Vice-President, took the Chair.

(The President)

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/685) on agenda item 126, entitled "Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The draft resolution was adopted by 117 votes to 20, with 17 abstentions (resolution 46/52).*

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 126.

We turn now to the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/686) on agenda item 127, entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/53).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 127.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/687) on agenda item 128, entitled "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

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* Subsequently the delegations of India and Mozambique advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of Greece that it had intended to abstain.

(The President)

Draft resolution I is entitled "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session". The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 46/54).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Consideration of the draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property".

That draft resolution was also adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/55).

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 128.

We turn next to the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/688) on agenda item 129, entitled "Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fourth session".

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolutions A and B recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report. The Sixth Committee adopted these draft resolutions without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolutions A and B were adopted (resolutions 46/56 A and 46/56 B).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 129.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/689) on agenda item 130, entitled "Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto".

(The President)

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/57).

The PRESIDENT: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 130.

(The President)

We turn next to the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/690) on agenda item 131, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

The Assembly will take decisions on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 13 of its report.

We shall first take a decision on draft resolution I, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization". The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme-budget implications of this draft resolution is contained in document A/46/756.

The Sixth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 46/58).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution II, entitled "Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security".

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/59).

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on the representative of Colombia who wishes to explain her vote.

Ms. ESCOLAR (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): I am speaking today on behalf of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

(Ms. Escolar, Colombia)

Fact-finding by the United Nations is a subject of great importance that can facilitate the work of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as the prevention of situations and events that could threaten international peace and security. That is the perspective from which we view the operation of this mechanism by means of which we shall be able to obtain objective, accurate, impartial and timely information.

For those reasons, the delegations on whose behalf I am speaking participated in the adoption of draft resolution II in document A/46/690.

At the same time, we wish to point out that paragraph 6 of the Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security - which states that the sending of a United Nations fact-finding mission to the territory of any State requires the prior consent of that State - implies that a State has the right to determine in advance and explicitly the terms and conditions for the entry into, stay in and withdrawal from its territory of fact-finding missions, subject to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 131.

The Assembly will now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/691) on agenda item 132, entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

We shall take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 7 of the report.

(The President)

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/60).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 132.

The Assembly will now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/692) on agenda item 133, entitled "Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 7 of the report.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/61).

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 133.

We shall next consider the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/655) on agenda item 134, entitled "Consideration of the draft articles on most-favoured nation clauses".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Sixth Committee adopted that draft decision without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 134.

We shall now consider the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/656) on agenda item 135, entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States".

(The President)

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

The Sixth Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/62).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 135.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report of the Sixth Committee (A/46/693) on agenda item 140, entitled "Exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict and the taking of practical measures to prevent such exploitation".

The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. In this connection, the Assembly also has before it an amendment to the draft decision submitted by Mozambique and contained in document A/46/L.39.

I call on the representative of Mozambique, who will introduce the amendment.

Mr. AFONSO (Mozambique): At the outset I wish to congratulate warmly the Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, Mr. Aliosha Nedelchev, for his brilliant presentation of the report of the Committee to the Assembly.

In my capacity as the representative of Mozambique, I should like - in conformity with what was said by the Rapporteur, to introduce the proposal of my delegation to amend the draft decision set out in paragraph 8 of the report of the Sixth Committee now before the Assembly. The proposed amendment is contained in document A/46/L.39.

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

I wish to inform the Assembly that the amendment being proposed by my delegation arises from the fact that new developments occurred after the adoption by the Sixth Committee of draft decision A/C.6/46/L.13 and after the Committee had concluded its work for this session of the General Assembly.

As can be seen from the existing draft decision in paragraph 8 of document A/46/693, the Assembly would take note that the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict was to be addressed at the Twenty-Sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to be held in Budapest from 29 November to 6 December 1991.

(Mr. Alfonso, Mozambique)

The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to report at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on the results of the Conference. However, that Conference has now been postponed sine die. Accordingly, it became necessary to amend the draft decision to reflect this development

In my capacity as the Chairman of the Sixth Committee at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, I undertook extensive consultations with over 100 delegations and various regional groups. The result of these consultations is a consensus text reflected in the proposed amendment contained in document A/46/L.39, which would replace paragraphs (a) and (b) of document A/C.6/46/L.13, while paragraph (c) would remain unchanged.

My delegation has the honour to introduce to the General Assembly these amendments. I am fully aware that this is a very delicate consensus reached after extensive debate and a great deal of give-and-take. This is one of these cases of consensus that only the Sixth Committee can produce. It is therefore my hope that it will be possible for the General Assembly to accept these amendments and to adopt them.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Mozambique.

If the Assembly were to adopt the amendment contained in document A/46/L.39, the proposed text would replace paragraphs (a) and (b) of the draft decision.

In accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly shall first take a decision on the amendment contained in document A/46/L.39.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the amendment?

The amendment was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now consider the draft decision as a whole, as amended.

(The President)

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision, as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 140 and of all the reports of the Sixth Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.